

LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI ANNOUNCES WADE SANDERS AS SENIOR ADVISOR FOR MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Lt. Governor Garamendi and newly appointed Senior Advisor for Veterans and Military Affairs Wade Sanders

SACRAMENTO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi on Tuesday announced the appointment of Wade Sanders, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy and a decorated combat veteran, as his new Senior Advisor for Veterans and Military Affairs. Sanders, also a retired Navy Captain, will assist the Lt. Governor in developing and implementing initiatives to ensure that service members and veterans quickly and efficiently receive the services to which they are entitled.

“Our country is involved in a tragic war that is taking a great toll on the lives and health of our military,” said the Lt. Governor, noting that California leads the nation in both military deaths and injuries sustained in Iraq and Afghanistan, with 383 and 2,797 respectively. “We must redouble our efforts to ensure that service members, veterans, and their families receive the best care and assistance that we can provide. I am committed to moving public policy in a direction that makes services and benefits for current and former military personnel more easily accessible.”

California is home to more veterans than any other state, with more than 2.5 million. The Lt. Governor noted that here and in other states, injured veterans far too often face substandard medical care, and must live in poorly maintained facilities. In addition, once they are treated and released, the system of collecting benefits is nearly incomprehensible. The Lt. Governor is also greatly concerned for the welfare of California's weekend warriors - those members of the California National Guard who have been called to active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, but do not receive all of the benefits and protections of reservists and regular-service personnel.

Sanders, who has served on the board of the Vietnam Veterans of San Diego, will use his experience and expertise in military and veterans affairs to help devise solutions to these problems. An attorney practicing in San Diego, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University at Long Beach and his Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego School of Law, is a graduate of the Naval War College, and attended the Kennedy School of

Government at Harvard.

Sanders has been awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star (with combat "v"), and the Purple Heart. A community activist, he is a member of the San Diego Police Department Senior Oversight Committee and has served on many non-profit boards.

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